

DNR Accessibility Advisory Council Mtg.

Monday, June 25, 2007

Okemos, Michigan

Advisory Council Present:

Rodney Haneline, Leader Dogs for the Blind
Jim Trinklein, MI Assn of Game Bird Breeders & Hunting Preserves
Bill Sheffer, MI Assn of Recreation Vehicles & Campgrounds
Scot Severn, Paralyzed Veterans of America
Sophie Baker, Michigan Department of Civil Rights
Twyla Niedfeldt, Division of Deaf & Hard of Hearing (DLEG)
Cindy Burkhour, Access to Recreation Initiative
Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone, MI Department of Veterans Affairs
Roberta McCall, Michigan Commission for the Blind (DLEG)
Vendela Collins, Developmental Disabilities Council (MDCH)
Jeff Coupie, Michigan Sports Unlimited

DNR:

Jerry Harris, Human Resources
Dan Lord, Parks and Recreation
Tami Pattison, Fisheries
Ken Wright, Human Resources
Erica Moore, Fisheries
Sharon Lawrence-Taylor, Human Resources
Bill Rogers, Wildlife
Deb Stolecki, Forest Mineral and Fire Management
Jackie Waber, Law Enforcement
Bonnie Arthur, Office of Communication
Julee Hasbany, Office of Communication

Guest: Chuck Nelson, Michigan State University

Meeting called to order by Jerry Harris.

Changes to Agenda: No changes to the agenda.

Minutes: Minutes from the May 7, 2007 meeting were accepted without any comments or changes. The minutes will be made available on the internet site.

Scheduling Future Meetings: It was decided that a 10 am – 2 pm meeting time works the best. The August 13, 2007, and September 24, 2007, meetings will be held the Manufactured Housing, Recreation Vehicles and Campgrounds Association, 2222 Association Drive, Okemos, MI 48864, from 10 am – 2 pm. A November 5, 2007,

meeting was also added to the meeting schedule. Meeting location will be announced at a later time. The 2007 meeting schedule with time, dates, and locations can be found on the DNR internet at the following link: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-39002_46830-170687--,00.html.

Election of Officers: The election of officers was deferred to the August 13, 2007, meeting.

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): Chuck Nelson from Michigan State University gave a presentation on SCORP and explained what SCORP is. The presentation will be e-mailed to all AAC members via the AAC list serve. The draft SCORP should be available sometime in September for review and comments. **Chuck would like AAC members to provide the top areas for improvement in universal access so they can include that information in the SCORP.** After the draft SCORP is released there will be several public meetings around the state and Chuck would like AAC members to encourage attendance at the public meetings. The review period should be about 30 days from the date the draft is published.

SCORP will be on the August 13, 2007, and September 24, 2007, AAC meeting agenda. Bring ideas for things you'd like to see in the SCORP to the August 13, 2007, AAC meeting. We will discuss the draft SCORP at the September 24, 2007, AAC meeting.

It was suggested that the public meetings be scheduled at a time when public transportation is available. Chuck hopes to schedule two meetings at each location – one after lunch and one in the evening.

Feel free to send Chuck any questions or comments you might have regarding SCORP. You can contact Chuck by e-mail at nelsonc4@michigan.gov or by phone at (517) 373-0987.

Access to Recreation: Cindy Burkhour, from the Kellogg Foundation – Access to Recreation Initiative, gave a presentation on Access to Recreation. Access to Recreation is a 15 million dollar program from the Kellogg Foundation for universal access. Three million dollars went to the DNR. One million of those dollars went to the Natural Resources Trust Fund to distribute to local municipalities via a grant process. The other two million dollars went to DNR Parks and Recreation Division for park improvements. Cindy also showed a short video to the group promoting Access to Recreation. The web site address for Access to Recreation is www.accesstorecreation.org.

Scheduled Parks and Recreation Projects: Dan Lord, from DNR Parks and Recreation Division, gave an overview of scheduled parks and recreation projects. The projects will be funded by the two million dollars from Access to Recreation. Dan's presentation will be e-mailed to the AAC and or posted on the DNR web site. Dan will keep the AAC updated on the progress of all the projects. The six project locations include: Wells State Park, Otsego Lake State Park, Muskegon State Park, Port Crescent State Park, and Brighton Recreation Area. If anyone is interested in providing input in a specific

location, contact Dan at lordds@michigan.gov or (517) 335-2003. Dan would like the AAC to provide input on materials and interpretive devices when they get to that part in the planning process.

Ruggadized Wheelchair Recommendation: Holly Recreation Area is putting in a disk golf course and the DNR would like to make the course accessible and provide some adaptive equipment. Dan Lord would like suggestions from AAC members on possible equipment that would work for disk golf and also be used for other outdoor activities such as trail use and native seed collection. AAC members present at the meeting provided Dan with some ideas. Scot Severn suggested looking at <http://www.golfxpress.com>. Additional suggestions can be sent to Dan at lordds@michigan.gov or (517) 335-2003. After Dan does some more research he will send an e-mail to the AAC asking members to review his selection.

What is Out There – Interactive Web Presentation of DNR Information: Erica Moore, from the DNR, gave a live presentation on the internet of the DNR web site and where to find accessible information for the DNR. Erica navigated to the DNR accessibility page (http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366_41825---,00.html) and the new AAC page (http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-39002_46830---,00.html). The DNR web site should be screen reader friendly according to e-Michigan, who oversees the State of Michigan web site. Erica asked Scott Norris to take a look and verify that. The new campground search engine is still in the works and Erica will keep the AAC updated as it progresses.

Hunt from a Standing Vehicle Permit for Game Preserves: Jim Trinklein, from the Michigan Association of Game Bird Breeders and Hunting Preserves, showed a video from a game preserve hunt. Jim started a discussion on the subject. Jackie Waber, from DNR Law Enforcement, said the statue would need to go through the legislature to be changed. **A subcommittee was developed to investigate the issue, collect more information and report back to the next AAC meeting in August with some more background information.** Jackie Waber will be the subcommittee chair and members will be Scot Severn, Jim Trinklein, Jeff Coupie and Roger McCarville. The subcommittee will provide frequent e-mail updates to the AAC via the AAC list serve.

Update of Expo Opportunities: Jerry Harris reported that the DNR did not attend the Sports and Recreation Expo in Ann Arbor due to current state restrictions on travel. Jerry reported that the DNR has sent in the registration paperwork for the Michigan Rehabilitation Conference, October 24-26, 2007, in Grand Rapids but the event organizers might cancel the conference due to a low level of interest.

Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone, from the Michigan Department of Veterans Affairs, announced the second annual Brain Injury Conference, September 27-28, 2007, and she thought the AAC/DNR might want to reserve a booth at the conference.

Additional Comments/Updates at the meeting:

Travel Reimbursement: Jerry informed the group that everyone should have or should be receiving their travel reimbursements from the March meeting and if you haven't yet, please let Ken Wright know at wrightk2@michigan.gov or 517-373-8112.

Crossbow Update: Jackie Waber gave a crossbow update.

--Last month, the NRC considered amending current crossbow regulations to allow all able bodied individuals to use crossbows without special permits during the archery season. The commission decided against expanding the regulation at this time.

--The NRC did reappoint a task force to research and review the current criteria that must be met by disabled individuals in order to qualify for a crossbow permit.

--Statute still defines part of the requirement to be "permanently disabled." The NRC has no authority to change this requirement; this would take legislative action.

--An independent group of physical therapists out of the Saginaw area are taking a closer look at the testing criteria for the crossbow permit. This review process may take up to a year.

--Senate Bill 572 was introduced by Senator Barcia and would delegate authority to the DNR regarding modified bow permits, criteria, and requirements.

--The DNR is currently trying to streamline the application process for all types of permits for disabled persons by shortening the internal administrative porcedures for processing.

Jeff Coupie asked Jackie if she could find out more information or a contact name for the group of physical therapists out of the Saginaw so he can maybe work with them or provide input as he is from the Saginaw area.